THE STAR

RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE.

Our
wish
for you
the coming
year - a little
more joy and a
little more cheer.
Laughter for days
that are bright and
fair; Courage for cloudy
ones here and there, and
may luck and gladness the
whole year through, make the
sunny days many, and the cloudy
ones few. You can't take the joy
out of Christmas, you can't take the
cheer from the day; there 's beauty and
charm in the season that makes the world
happy and gay. May many blessings heaven
sent, be yours on Christmas morn and
gladden all the holy day,
On which
the
Christ
Was born.

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RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE

Published monthly by the Patients of the United States Marine Hospital, National Leprosarium, Carville, Louisiana.
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"In order that leprosy may be dealt with successfully on a comprehensive scale, and before any large proportion of early cases will come voluntarily for examination, there must be a change in the attitude of the public toward the disease. Any scheme for the control of leprosy will depend for its success on an educated public opinion."

Recommendation of World Conference on Leprosy, Cairo, Egypt, March 1938.

FACTS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HANSEN'S DISEASE

The transmission of Hansen's Disease being still unsolved, the medical world classes it as "feebly communicable".

The Leprosarium at Carville was founded forty-eight years ago. To date, not a single member of the personnel has contracted the disease, nor has a case developed in the adjacent neighborhood.

Doctors and nurses take very simple precautions, not comparable with those they would take in dealing with diphtheria, typhoid and other communicable diseases.

Visitors are admitted freely, nor are they required to take any special precautions.

This paper, and all outgoing mail, is sterilized before leaving the hospital.

PATIENTS WILL PRESENT NATIVITY PLAY ON CHRISTMAS EVE

THE PRINCE OF PEACE, a tender and beautiful drama reflecting the spiritual aspect of the Christmas story, will be presented by the patients on Christmas Eve in the new theater. The ever-old, ever-new story is to be told in a prologue, fifteen episodes, and an epilogue, and will be enacted by a large cast of players who are now holding daily rehearsals. The opening scene reveals a bomb-torn English village where Father Stephen is discovered in the study of his rectory preparing his Christmas sermon. The drama of the events preceding the Nativity then unfolds, reaching an inspiring climax in the manger scene when the shepherds and the Wise Men gather to pay homage to the newborn King. The costuming will be elaborate and special lighting effects are in preparation. The costumes are being made by the patients.

A mixed chorus of thirty voices will provide a musical background. Many of the old familiar Christmas carols will be heard, including Silent Night, Joy to the World, O Little Town of Bethlehem and We Three Kings; other numbers will include Glory to God and Angels We have Heard on High, and a special arrangement of Venite Adoremus will feature the grand finale.

Patients and personnel alike are looking forward to this annual event.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On Christmas day at 6:00 P.M. the colored patients are planning to present a program of songs, musical numbers and recitations. This entertainment will be given in the Music Room in House 15 and everyone is cordially invited to attend.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Preceding the Midnight Mass in the Catholic Chapel, the choir will sing carols including the famous Jesu Bambino by Yon, with baritone solo and four-part chorus. The High Mass will be sung antiphonally by the men and women's choirs, the Proper of the Feast being rendered by the male choir. A Low Mass will follow during which Christmas carols will again be sung. The third Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 A.M. Christmas day followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN PROTESTANT CHAPEL

Sunday, December 20, 10:45 A.M.
"The Message of an Angel"

Thursday, December 24, 2:00 P.M.
Gifts for "You All"
Theme: "Gifts Made Holy".

Christmas, December 25, 9:45A.M.
Sermon: "The Holy Child Jesus".

GREETINGS

Christmas and Holiday Greetings to all the patients from Dr. G.H.Faget and family.

May peace and contentment of mind remain with you through out the year and help you to regain your health.

PEACE, GOOD WILL

The happy Christmas comes once more,
The heavenly Guest is at the door,
The blessed words the shepherds thrill,
The joyous tidings -- Peace, good will!
The belfries of all Christendom,
Now roll along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

-----Longfellow

WHAT THE PATIENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HANSEN'S DISEASE

This is the fifth in a series of articles written for THE STAR by Dr.G.H. Faget, Medical Officer in Charge.

V
TREATMENT

Globinosis, like tuberculosis, is a chronic disease for which no true specific remedy has as yet been discovered. The word chronic applied to these two diseases refers to their long duration and does not mean that they are considered incurable. Although slightly more progress has been made in the treatment and arrest of tuberculosis, considerable advancement has also been made in the management of leprosy. We do not generally speak of cure in these two diseases, as, even after the disappearance of all symptoms, it is felt that the causative germs, although no longer active in the body, may not actually be dead. It is a well-known fact that after "arrest" of these diseases the causative germ may remain dormant for many years. If the patient is not careful in guarding his future health and allows himself to become "run down", these latent germs may again become active, multiply, and cause a reactivation of the disease.

The patient should realize this and adjust his life accordingly. His welfare often depends upon a correct attitude toward his condition. He must have a strong character and a determined will to do everything in his power to improve his general health. If he understands to a certain extent the nature of his disease, the battle is already half won. He must be an optimist and have perseverance if he is to win in the long fight.

Knowledge of the disease will assist him in avoiding many costly mistakes which would otherwise set him back. During the course of his long illness, each setback will make it a little harder for him to regain his health.

The first important lesson that the patient must learn is to consider his disease a serious one. To the new patient this may seem useless advice, but, after he has commenced to improve, become accustomed to his condition, and found that it does not always make him feel ill, he may then be inclined to regard the disease too lightly. He should know that he cannot gauge its severity by the way he feels. Some patients with Hansen's disease do not feel sick or weak at all until the disease is far advanced. At other times little reactions, which in themselves are not really serious may make a patient feel very ill. Although the disease may not disturb the patient's sense of well being, he should not treat it with indifference; it is always a potential and treacherous enemy ready to profit by any personal neglect. Do not let your feelings deceive you, but look to your physician for guidance.

Another most valuable lesson the patient must learn is that a contented mind is one of the greatest assets in the treatment of leprosy. Self-pity and brooding over his malady will undermine his general health and cause the disease to progress. A patient can lose appetite and sleep and consequently lose weight and have his disease get worse through worry and discontent alone. The control of the mind over the body is not altogether a fictitious matter. You must understand that globinosis (leprosy) is a chronic disease and therefore very slow in its evolution and that for this reason proper use and non-abuse of the mind's and the body's resources are necessary to stop its progress. Nature, or the defensive forces of the body, can be assisted by you in this fight against the Hansen bacillus, the causative agent of the disease.

Globinosis, like tuberculosis, is a disease in which the destructive forces of the patient's body are closely matched in most cases. This is the reason that the struggle is such a long one and that the patient's general health seems unaffected for such a long period. Thus it is that the education of the patient concerning the disease is so important. Knowledge of the resources of the enemy are necessary to overcome him. Carelessness and ignorance work in favor of the enemy.

(Continued on P3)

(Dr. Faget Continued)

Another important factor in the treatment of globinosis is the element of time. The patient must realize that it will take a long time for improvements to become evident as a result of treatment. If he knows this, he will not be too eager to notice improvement or too disappointed if the monthly bacteriologic examinations continue to be positive for Hansen's bacillus. He will also realize that, even after he has succeeded in obtaining one or more negative examinations, showing that the disease is abating, he should not be surprised if another positive finding is reported. The course of this disease is not consistently one way or the other but is subject to many ups and downs. If the patient is prepared for these upsets, he will not be so disappointed when they occur but rather will be stimulated to yet greater efforts to carry on his advised treatment.

In leprosy the affected skin areas may not change in appearance for months or even years. This of itself shows that the body has a strong resistance to the onslaught of Hansen's bacillus. The patient can do much to increase this resistance and aid his body in overcoming the infection. On the other hand, the careless and non-cooperating patient can through ignorance or loss of hope, harm himself by doing things detrimental to his welfare, such as dissipation and drinking.

The treatment of leprosy should be individualized. A remedy which is beneficial to one patient may not help another. The individual's constitution must be considered, as well as the type of the disease, whether neural, nodular or mixed, and the various complications that may have set in. This is why it may be so harmful for a patient to attempt to treat himself and why he should so closely cooperate with medical advice.

The neural type of the disease for example is the most chronic and usually the least active. It may require vigorous treatment to stir up a favorable reaction. The skin type is often very active and strong remedies may elicit too severe reactions. Such acute inflammatory phenomena may be toxic to the patient who have the skin type and cause a dissemination of the disease to sound parts of the body. It has already been said that toxic reactions, "tubercles" or "red legs" or "red arms" often result in beneficial changes in the patient's condition. But all remedies which produce such reactions should be regarded as two-edged swords capable of doing harm as well as good, unless used judiciously. Repeated and severe toxic reactions wear down the patient and tear down the body's defenses.

It has already been said that complications of the disease must be expeditiously dealt with. Your doctor should be consulted whenever you develop any unusual symptoms. A weakening of the blood, for example, is one of the frequent complications of the disease which demands special medication such as tonics, liver and iron. Periodic laboratory tests are important to indicate to the doctor the patient's general condition and when certain complications have occurred. Let us repeat, the closer the patient cooperates with his physician the better are his chances for improvement.

It is also important for the patient to know that in chronic diseases like tuberculosis and globinosis (leprosy) there is a tendency for him to become too sure of himself. After years of hospitalization he may feel that he knows as much about his condition as the doctor does. Some patients then get the impression that it really does not make much difference whether he is taking any special treatment or not. This of course is a serious misconception of some old-timers. The new patient should be on guard against these old-timers. He may otherwise allow himself to be influenced by them, led astray and neglect the treatment offered by the doctor.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY LEADERS HERE

Mrs. Alfred J. Mathebat of Alameda, California, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, and Mrs. A. R. Isenberg, President of the Louisiana Department, and Mr. Isenberg of Lafayette, La., visited Carville on Saturday afternoon November 21. They were escorted on a tour of the hospital by Dr. G. H. Faget.

EDITORIAL

A NURSE SPEAKS

Editor's Foreword: After more than twenty years of continuous service on the nursing staff here, Sister Catherine Sullivan was appointed Assistant Visitatrix, Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, at the Mother-house at Normandy, Mo. When leaving Carville Sister Catherine promised the patients that in the administrative position to which she had been appointed -- one which would bring her into frequent touch with medical and nursing groups, social service and civic workers, etc. - she would take every opportunity to combat and correct the erroneous impressions that are current concerning Hansen's disease. Through the years Sister Catherine has richly kept her promise. Her interest in Carville has never abated or her desire to be of service ever grown less. She is in thorough accord with our fight against harmful publicity. The following are excerpts from a talk given by Sister Catherine before a meeting of the Dutwon League in Chicago, Ill.:

I shall enlighten you, as far as I can, as to what leprosy is, and still more as to what it is not; I shall speak of the problems of our patients; but I shall never once use the word "leper". Thru the ages it has come to remote pariah, exile, untouchable. It is cruel to use it in connection with any human being. If this is not what you expected, I plead with you to remember that I have learned leprosy and its problems not from text books or from hearsay, but from intimate, daily contact with broken and bleeding human hearts.

The majority of our patients come in between the ages of 18 and 30. Now, statistically, and if you were just reading a book, that would not mean anything more than just a fact to you. But stop to consider. What does life mean to the average person between the ages of 18 and 30? It means it is brightest and most promising. That span of 17 years represents the time when a person is most helpful, most hopeful and most active. Then, without warning in so many cases, leprosy strikes its stunning blow. Do you realize that for many of the patients the diagnosis of leprosy comes with as great a shock as it would to you; and then, while he is yet reeling under that blow, comes (often within 24 hours) complete separation from all that he loved and the complete and sudden cessation of his life's work. To protect their families many of the patients live under an assumed name, for leprosy is even more of a social tragedy than a medical disease.

Not long since, I met a man who was gazing rather bitterly at a post card he held in his hand. "What do you think of this, Sister ?" he said. Taking the card I read the few words of stereotyped greeting. "Do you know the man?" I asked. "That, Sister," he said, "is from my best friend." Now, what actually happened was that the patient had arranged that his assumed name should be given to his life-long friend, thru a third party, representing him simply as a patient who would like to get some mail. The man went on to say: "Sister I thought the sight of his writing would be a touch of home." Touch, no, it wasn't that-- it was an agonizing pressure.

The one big problem in leprosy is its transmission - in other words "how you catch it". And until that problem is solved, we will continue our present barbaric method of imprisoning a person for life because he or she happens to be ill.

It has been quite some while since the World War, but I am sure you knew that the soldiers were facing grave dangers, that they might die on the field of honor; or that wounded, helpless and disfigured, they might drag on a wretched existence. Still, you did not pity them - you admired them. Now, that is the spirit we want to have in regard to our patients. The Colony has always seemed to me to be a battlefield - a field where the combatants are not only men, but women and little children as well. They have been drafted by Fate to fight a pitiless foe who gives no quarter, respects no truce, and has alas! never known defeat. Our patients are the bravest

(Continued on Page 5)

MESSAGES FROM THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Editor's note: With pardonable pride we present the following messages from fellow patients in the Leprosarium at St. Croix, Virgin Island. If the publication of The Star has served no other purpose than to encourage these friends on distant shores we feel that it has fulfilled a measure of worth.

The Star has just recently celebrated its first birthday. In its anniversary issue the Editor told of the endeavors of the Staff and the many worthwhile results accomplished. He very kindly mentioned corresponding with the patients here. But what he couldn't tell is what the Star has come to mean to us. It came to us truly as a star. A radiant star giving us hope and courage.

Life at our Colony was uneventful and dull. Things were taken as they came. What was the use of kicking? Nothing better could be expected. After all we are stricken with one of the worst diseases known. These are but a few of the morbid thoughts that pervaded our minds. We didn't realize at the time that we could kick if we only mustered the proper amount of spunk. We didn't know it could be done.

At times we were made to believe (from magazines and even churchmen seeking aid for patients in distant places) that patients in other parts of the world were far more destitute than we were and at those times we felt really lucky.

Then The Star came and by its light we found that the shining luck we thought we possessed was a tangled bit of tinsel. It did not take us long to get our eyes open to what was going on in the outer world.

The first thing we did was to get in touch with the Staff. From that time on our corresspondence has been one smooth steady flow. We feel we know these pen-friends well and wish this to be an open acknowledgement of our indebtness to them. Not merely for material things, but for those things that go deeper. The things you can not see, can not touch, and yet you feel. Those little things that give you dream gardens to walk in, fleecy clouds to ride upon. They are the things that help to make life brighter, sickness easier to bear; and makes you more tolerantly disposed toward your fellow patients.

The Star should be read the world over in every walk of life. It contains information for the ignorant, and the misinformed, light for the obscure, cheer and courage for the desolate and the weak. Their fighting spirit is like the United Nations, indomitable. We like to know that we are their friends as well as comrades in illness.

We are not ashamed to admit of being copy-cats. We imitate them as far as is possible. Since reading of organizations at Carville, we have been able to bring approximately three-quarters of our patient body into an organization created expressly for the improvement of our Colony. Thus far we have been able to lend assistance to our little community and hope to continue doing so.

We have our difficulties to surmount, of course. Problems originating from such as ill health, the inconsideration of patients not in the organization, inconsistency in our membership, etc.

But we want everyone to know that come what may as the British once said "Our tails are up". We are fighting too, like all good soldiers.

Beryl Clarke

Another Message is on Page 6.

A Nurse Speaks (continued)

class of patients in the world. A splendid spirit of comradeship exists between them and the personnel - much the same spirit of comradeship that existed between the docters and nurses in the Base Hospital and the boys in the front trenches. You remember our gallant lads shrugged off death and disaster with those familiar words "C'est la guerre"; with our patients, it is not "It is the war", but "It is the disease". But here, disease and war are synonymous. Think of the patients in that light. Think of them as soldiers, some sadly wounded, in a heavily beleagured city.

Virgin Islands --Continued

We first saw The Star during the fourth
month of the year,
And, oh, it has caused us to be so
cheerful and bright,
From our lives it has dispelled all
gleeminess and fear,
And we follow the path sent forth by
its lucid light.

The Star has just commemorated the
first year of its birth,
While conveying the truth it so loving-
ly embraces
Although very young, it has toured far
o'er the earth
Shedding its vivid rays on earth's de-
luded races.

While attempting to obtain a complete
defeat
As against falsehood and error its
staff new is at war
May both soon bow low at Truth's Vic-
torious feet
And many more years be added to the
life of The Star.

Charles H. Herbert

BURMESE PATIENTS ARE AIR-WARDENS

The siren is silent in Mandalay ; bombs fell with deadly precision;anti-aircraft guns boomed,then ceased booming.The city lies a mass of ruins and the siren is silent.

St. John's Leprosarium outside the city limits set up its own local system of alarm. The ablest of our patients undertook to act as sound detectors,others decided to watch for falling bombs, while others prepared to deal with fires.

Our Burmese patients feel their responsibility and watch night and day in groups or separately according to the particular needs of the moment.

There is a sense of moral security in the fact that patients,nurses, and staff depend upon the skill and ability of these faithful wardens. The regular routine of the Leprosarium goes on as usual in the operating rooms, laboratories, and wards.

FAR AWAY MISSIONS--October 1942.

REV. RASH SPEAKS AT LION'S CLUB IN BATON ROUGE

Rev. Clifton Rash, Protestant Chaplain, was guest speaker at the Lion's Club in Baton Rouge on Tuesday,November 17.

The Baton Rouge Morning Advocate reporting the talk said:

Rev. Rash appeared in uniform and explained that his rank was that of lieutenant junior grade in the Navy.

Mr. Rash spoke not of the medical work being done but of his work as Chaplain. He told the group that he became interested in leprosy first while he was a student because it was mentioned so many times in the Bible, and because of our Master's compassion upon those who suffered with the disease. He said that his work is to give mental and spiritual encouragement to the patients because leprosy produces a state of depression.

He said, "We are encouraged in our work, we have an increase in the membership there from 57 when we came to 84 at the present time. Of this group we have 16 Protestant denominations represented, also followers of the Jewish faith, and a Buddhist, so you see mine is an interdenominational church, an interracial church and an international church."

PROTESTANT CHURCH NOTES

Visitors during November were: Miss Lulu D. Ervin, Chicago; Mrs. Thomas Hueston, Hammond,Indiana, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Cook, Montgomery,Ala.; Rev. and Mrs. Wayne C. Rash, Baton Rouge; Mrs. W.L.Williamson, Alexandria,Virginia ; and Serg. and Mrs.Poke of Baton Rouge .

Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Rash were with us in our Thanksgiving morning service. At this service there were testimonies of thanksgiving by a number of the patients, a poem on Thanksgiving Day, written and read by Mrs. Emile Tanner and an editorial on Thanksgiving written and read by Ann Page. These two were published in the last number of The Star and read over Station WAIT in Chicago on Thanksgiving Day. At our service Pedro Penida inspired us all by singing a hymn.

CHRIST IS BORN

Breaking through the sombre stillness,
Angel voices in exultant jubilation,
Rich and sparkling as a morning sun,
To the world proclaimed the tidings
"Christ, the Saviour, is born."

And across the empty coldness
Which enveloped that still night,
To the shepherds of the highlands
Drifted strains of angel's cry.

While against the luscious darkness of the midnight sky,
Poised in splendor a rarely, brilliant star;
Enhanced in beauty glowing above the manger birth,
Each gleaming ray the Heaven's message spelling,
Of love, good will and peace to earth.

Resounding chants of joy and of peace,
Throughout the land that night,
Cascaded through the stillness like a placid breeze,
While Angels revered the birth of Christ.

----Marie Vasquez

C H R I S T M A S

C stands for Christ, our Lord and Master dear,
H stands for happiness He bestows on us here,
R for the riches He promises all that love Him,
I for the infinite wisdom He gives within,
S for the sympathy He feels for you and for me,
T for the truth that only comes from Thee
M for the mansions He has prepared far away
A for all His children that trust and obey
S for the souls He will claim sometime, somewhere
Put these all together and they spell Christmas
A word that means so much to everyone everywhere.

---Mrs. Emile Tanner

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

"Shopping in catalogues; it's simple and fun."
Don't hand me that line, I've just get mine done;
And I started way back at the end of November
Thinking sure I'd be finished by the 10th of December,
But catalogue shopping's a trial most sore,
As I found when I'd finished. Let me tell you some more.
I ordered some mitts, socks and sweaters so gay,
Some writing paper, a book- and awaited the day
That would bring me those things. The day surely came,
With mostly some papers the lack to explain;
The book-"Out of Stock", and the sweater 'twould shrink,
And the mitts were "to follow in ten days," I think.
I sent back the sweater and picked out another,
The same with the book- which I sent for my brother.
By the time I'd spent postage, and fumed at the time
It took to return them, I thought, "What a crime!
I came here to rest and what have I now
But a headache, a good one." Next year I vow
I'll start when the catalogues first come out.
And dare them, at that date, my order to rout.

---Cheer-U-Upper

P.S. And We can't even send things back. Woe is us!

SHORT-RATIONING

The French and Dutch are fond of coffee,
The English and Chinese their tea;
Most all of us like Cookies and Sweets
But short-rationed they must be.
Now Hitler neither smokes nor drinks
And Mussolini's eats are few.
Hollanders are without their Cheese
Norwegian Sardines very scarce, too,
So everyone must sacrifice something
Can the United Nations Allies depend on you?

Eugene Aucoin

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Mrs. L.L. McCormick of Destrehan, La., one of our most loyal friends, commenting on the November Star, writes:

I thoroughly enjoyed The Star asusual, this month, especially the editorial and Dr. Faget's clear description of the early symptoms. The only trouble with the editorial is that it is like a fine sermon in church, it reaches the folks who need it the least. If there were only some way that it might be gotten before the general public. My Star has already started on its rounds, and I, of course, have already quoted and requoted both the editorial and Dr. Faget's article.

Mr. J.S. Ibbotson, Librarian of the Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas, sends greetings to the patient body and says:

We are glad to receive THE STAR and we shall place the current issues in the public reading room, calling attention to its arrival and articles in the local newspapers.

Mr. John Hall Jacobs, Librarian of the New Orleans Public Library, has acknowledged receiving copies of The Star and askds that we continue to furnish the Library with our paper.

...-V...-V...-V

Willie M. Robichaux, Periodical Librarian of the Tyrell Publiv Library at Beaumont, Texas, writes of the Library's appreciation for receiving regular copies of the STAR and says they are placed on the shelf where they are easily seen and read.

...-V...-V...-V

In renewing his subscription Dr. F. D. McCreary (Major McCreary), stationed at Camp Livingston, says: "I do not want to miss a single copy of THE STAR" and sends kindest regards and good wishes to "all the bunch."

Twinkles--Continued--

I want to tell you how much I like THE STAR. I read it all always and am refreshed by the courage and brightness. It seems hardly possible thatits high spirited reporting comes from people who are ill. You don't seem in the least alone or depressed to me. 'Member how Bob Sellars came to Ned Langford with envy of his protected life and beautiful home? You downright breed that feeling in the breasts of your readers, I believe.

Last Friday I reviewed WHO WALK ALONE to the local D. A. R. with a good strong talk on facts they needed to know about Hansen's. One of the very most telling of those facts was in the last issue of THE STAR and came just in time for me to stress it. That way back in the dark ages any old skin disease was charged to leprosy, and that it is only since the Hansen bacillus has been accurately described as the not-bad-at-all illness it is with its feeble efforts toward propagating itself.

The review on Friday was so enthusiastically praised as valuable that the Westport Woman's Club has asked me to give it as one of the two reviews I am dated for with them. So on December 11 I give it again. I give away all my copies of THE STAR, as I know you want me to do.

Give my love and greeting to the Carville people. I am their friend, and as a friend salute them as grand good sports, good citizens, patriots whose example is shining for many of us like a light. The spirit of them as shown in the STAR about BOND buying, about patience in receiving less from Uncle Sam during this great crisis, is magnificent. A day will come when the voice of One says, "These are they who have come through great tribulation." And He shall wipe all tears from their eyes. To be given the chance to live courageously because of great tribulation is a blessing, even though it is hard for some of us to believe that.

Mrs. Marjorie McClure,
Westport, Conn.

News Views and Comments.

By Phare Pleigh

Under date line of October 30, 1942, the Associated Press released a story by Norman Walker, their Baton Rouge representative, concerning the failure of diphtheria toxoid in the treatment of Hansen's disease at Carville. Many newspapers throughout the United States carried the story. The AP are just a little late with the news, about seven months, as practically the same article was released by Science Service on March 12, 1942, and was widely published. The Jackson, Miss., Clarion-Ledger in its issue of November 4, 1942, carried some very understanding editorial comment preceding the AP article. It follows: "Are you weary of reading 'bad news', news of shortages of this commodity and higher prices for another, news of rationing of coffee and gasoline, announcements that you will have to do without this or that, warnings of new and increased taxes?

"Then perhaps you will be glad that this little item of 'bad news' does not directly concern you or your loved ones, and perhaps an understanding of what it does mean to those whom it concerns will make you realize anew how relatively trivial most of your 'bad news' has been."

November press reports tell us that the Rev. and Mrs. George C. Southwell, National Young Peoples' Secretaries and Regional Directors for the "American Mission to Lepers," are showing kodachrome movies of this hospital in Ohio. The write-ups erroneously refer to this institution as the "United States Leper Colony" and tell that the Southwells have visited here three times. According to the press, in addition to showing the pictures, "They will reveal some of the human interest stories about patients in the colony and the experience of some lepers in America who at one time did not have a government interest in their welfare."

MARINE HOSPITAL AT CARVILLE is the title of a feature article by Shirley Renahoe, a student at St. Joseph High School, New Orleans, which appeared in the CATHOLIC ACTION of November 5. Miss Renahoe's article was factual, presented in excellent taste, and entirely devoid of sensationalism or the use of "that odious word", which proves it can be done and yet be interesting and informative.

Here is an excerpt from the story: Most of the people at Carville are happy and hopeful; happy, because they enjoy all the conveniences of modern life; hopeful, because they live with the thought of some day being cured. They trust in God -- and with Him on their side, who can be against them?

Dr. John Harvey Furbay writes an interesting and informative column for the Ledger Syndicate which he calls, "The Debunker." In a recent column Dr. Furbay "debunked" leprosy, asserting that the age-old fear of the disease was without justification.

Eugene Aucoin, one of our fellow patients, has written a letter to Radio Station WWL, New Orleans La., objecting to a program, THE ROAD TO YESTERDAY, which was broadcast over that station Sunday, November 16. Copies of the letter were sent to Dr. Faget, Columbia Broadcasting System and the Federal Radio Commission. Mr. Aucoin pointed out that the broadcast was humiliating and offensive to the patients of this institution.

Jack Simpson, director of this program in replying stated that the stories are based on historical facts, but voiced his regrets and assured Gene that the subject offending the patients would not be repeated.

HOLIDAYS IN CARVILLE

The illustration on this page might well be any of us puzzling over our Christmas catalogs and making up our list of gifts. The messenger boy is loaded with the things we would like to send each of you.

First, we must think of our soldier boys, then family and friends at home, last, but not least, our fellow patients. While the gifts given here are not so expensive they are numerous. A few of them will be handmade by our friends. The postman has been loaded down for weeks now bringing packages from the mailorder houses, Christmas cards, colorful wrappings and all sorts of goodies. Everyone is full of secrets and the clothes closets are excellent hiding places for the surprises.

In a week or so more the overworked postman will have to make two trips a day to get the gifts and cards to us from our folks at home.

The rehearsals for the Nativity Play are almost daily. We are looking forward to this inspiring presentation on Christmas Eve, then many of us will attend the Midnight Mass at the Sacred Heart Chapel. Christmas morning gifts will be exchanged at the different trees, then services at the Protestant Chapel followed by a grand Christmas dinner. In the hospital there is always a Christmas tree for those confined to their beds, gifts and greetings are sent to them and the trays will be piled high with turkey and all the trimmings.

Different groups give parties all through the holiday season sharing the candies, cookies, etc. that have been sent from home. The Star Staff always looks forward to their Christmas tree and party at our editor's cottage.

In the past there has scarcely been a house without its Christmas tree and we hope that we will be able to secure them this season in spite of the war. Somehow the brightly lighted and decorated trees, holly, poinsettias and wreaths all add to the Christmas spirit.

To wind up the festive season there is usually a grand New Year's Eve Watch party in the ballroom. The orchestra for occasions of this sort is always from one of the nearby cities-Baton Rouge or New Orleans.

This will give you a preview of how gala is our holiday season. It is not the drab, unhappy time you may have thought we would spend.

V...-V...-V...-

Miss Lulu Erwin, secretary of the Chicago office of the American Mission to Lepers and Mrs. T. Hueston of Indiana were entertained by the B Natural Music Club on Monday afternoon, November 16 with a musicale. This program was arranged in appreciation of the gift to the club of a piano by the Mission.

Both Miss Erwin and Mrs. Hueston were much impressed by the flowers in bloom in our balmy state in mid-November and by the beauty of our homes.

The Town Crier

The radio pluggers are constantly singing about the old juke box breaking down but in the middle of mimeographing the November Star right at the 11th hour the machine balked and could not be persuaded by might, main or awkwardness to complete its job. Hand and Roberto began frantically to search for the trouble and discovered that the motor had gone completely haywire because the wires had burned in two. Ann discreetly withdrew to give the boys not only freedom of action but freedom of speech which always helps. In a few hours the wheels were again grinding out The Star, but Roberto, who usually looks like he just stepped out of the proverbial band-box, resembled a grease monkey and Hank's bald head was his only visible clean spot.

V...-V...-V...-

Recent advertisements in the New York Times of 49¢ book bargains sent Carvillians off on a book buying binge. Our scouts tell us that scores of orders were posted. About a dozen Spanish-English dictionaries were included not to mention several copies of Effective English and other books on self-education. Looks like we're determined to "slay 'em wid cultshur".

V...-V...-V...-

The fellows in House 26 and 27 have centered their attention on football and fight broadcasts. The bets fly thick and fast and at last report House 26 was winning. Gus and Lum were on the receiving end and, alas, Gregory was again passing out the do-re-mi.

V...-V...-V...-

Priorities on crepe hair for beards, wigs and make-up bothers not in the least the local Thespians who are busy rehearsing for the annual Nativity Play. Realism counts - Jack, who portrays Joseph, is sprouting a black beard and Bee who has the role of King Caspar has a facial adornment that rivals Blue Beard only his is black. Manuel, as King Balthazar, thinks beards should be in vogue and not only at Christmas time, but Lee, as King Herod, will be glad when he can bring the old razor into use again. "They worry me!" he reports.

Promin is evidently causing a great improvement in Stanley's pep, vim and vigor. When told the other evening he was wanted at the Lab. for tests on two consecutive mornings, he gasped: "What! They can't do that to me! I'm too busy with the Star".
P.S. They did it!

V...-V...-V...-

The airplanes are coming so low over our grounds these days that we feel sure thay are dipping their wings at us. Wonder if they could be some of the Harding Field soldier boys who staged the Follies of the Forty-Ninth for our entertainment?

V...-V...-V...-

What a whale of a difference one word can make -- just take those signs that were posted about the grounds reading: "No hunting". Some wag crossed off the word "No". Well, who believes in signs anyway?

V...-V...-V...-

Martin "Shot" in the Bathtub -- and by one of his best friends, too. It happened this way. Camera enthusiast Johnnie clicked a close-up of Martin taking his Saturday night splash. Waiting his opportunity, Martin later found Johnnie in the same position and again the camera clicked. Those who have seen the pictures say that "Artists and Models" have nothing to worry about but would you call this a "double exposure?"

V...-V...-V...-

Our compliments to Chef Charles A. Clayton for that grand Thanksgiving Day Dinner. From the tender roast turkey to the spicy pumpkin pie it was a culinary masterpiece. And did you know that on December 15 Chef Clayton will have completed 16 years of continuous service in this institution?

ARMY AND NAVY EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR CONTRIBUTION FROM CARVILLE PATIENTS

"In the name of the Navy Relief society I thank you for our share of the donation and I am sure I may express equal appreciation on behalf of the Army Emergency Relief.

The patients in your hospital should be commended for their patriotism most highly."

Yours sincerely,
J.O.Richardson.
Navy Relief Society

Army Emergency Relief is most grateful to the patients of U.S.Marine Hospital for their generous donation which resulted from the "Freedom Fair"held on October eleventh.

We appreciate the spirit of patriotism which prompted this contribution and wish to extend our good wishes to all those who participated in assisting this worthy cause.

Sincerely yours,
Richard K. Mellon,
Army Emergency Relief

WAR STAMP REPORT

Sales for November in the monthly drive amounted to $180.00. The December sale is now in progress and it is hoped that many of the patients will buy stamps as Christmas gifts. No gift could be more appropiate or more appreciated.

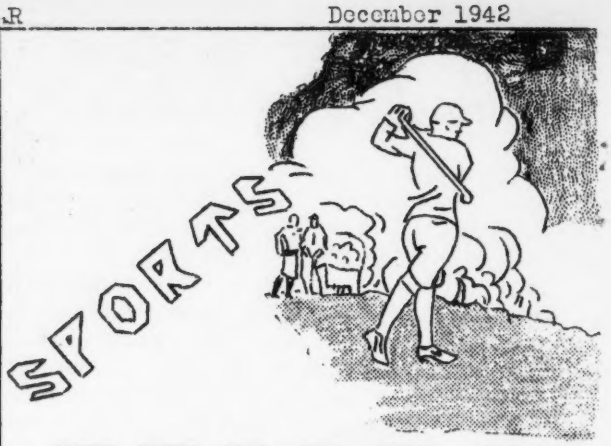
FEDERATION TO GIVE PRIZES

The patients' Federation will give six valuable prizes in the following order, and under the following conditions:

One prize for the cleanest men's house
One prize for the cleanest ladies'house
One prize for the orderly of cleanest ladies' house
One prize for the orderly of cleanest men's house
One prize for the cleanest colored patients' house
One prize for the orderly of cleanest colored house

The proposed prizes will be given strictly on a basis of cleanliness and

Continued on next column



The fall golf tournament sponsored by the Patients' Federation attracted much interest and was highly successful.

The men's tournament wound up on Thanksgiving Day and cash prizes were awarded to: Joe Rodriguez, Manuel, Anita, Alex, Chicago, Flor, Al, Melchor, Philomeno, Martin and Vicente.

The girls had their own competition which concluded on Sunday, November 30. The winners receiving cash prizes were Betty, Grace, Kitty, Leonor and Angelica

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A handicap tournament is now being planned which should help those with bad scores to even up things somewhat.

Federation Continued.

sanitation. Christmas or any other decorations will not be taken into consideration.

Inspection to start Saturday, November 28 and will continue each week until Tuesday, December 22 when prizes will be given at the theatre just before the show. It is to the advantage of all patients to cooperate with their orderlies as it will be a distinctive honor to be one of the winners.

Judges: Dr. G.H.Faget, Dr. C. Eccles, Mr. S.H.Butler, Mr. Russel Tice and Sister Zoe.

The approach of the holiday season is always the signal for general house cleaning but this contest has everyone delving into corners and cupboards, windows and whatnots to erase all traces of untidiness.

Fresh curtains, new bedspreads, cut flowers and ferns are certainly adding to the general appearance of things.

PERSONNEL PERSONALS

BY MARY E. BROWNE

The Officer's Supper Club met during the month with Mrs. J. F. Dinan. Mr.and Mrs. R.P.Sharp, Misses Dill and Browne were additional guests. A delicious supper was served.

...-V...-V...-V

The ladies' afternoon bridge club met twice during the month. The hostesses were Mrs. Alex Haase and Mrs. B. M. Prejean.

...-V...-V...-V

We welcome back to the station Mrs. C.W.Johnson(Mary Jane Stanley) Mrs. Johnson has accepted a position in the Labratory during her husband's absence. He is in foreign service.

...-V...-V...-V

Lieutenant David J. Gleason was a visitor to the station after graduating from the Infantry Officers' Candidate School at Fort Fenning, Ga., on Friday, November 13, 1942, prior to his departure on orders to Camp Croft, Spartanburg, S.C.

...-V...-V...-V

Mr.and Mrs. Ralph Sharp enjoyed visits recently from their daughter, Jeannette (employed at Manding Field near Eaton Rouge); and their son, Ralph Jr. a recent volunteer in the Army Air Corps.

...-V...-V...-V

Mrs. B.M.Prejean and Mrs. E.D.Stanley were co-hostesses for the November meeting of the Evening Bridge Club. A delicious plate of refreshments consisting of molded fruit salad, Ritz crackers, pumpkin pie and cold bottle drinks.

The winners at Bridge were Dr. and Mrs. G.H.Faget, Mr. and Mrs. S.H.Butler, and Miss Marjorie Dill.

...-V...-V...-V

The local Red Cross unit of ladies give Wednesday afternoons to sewing and knitting.

Miss Jacqueline Brejean was in the Wedding party of Miss Mary Ada LeBlanc and Ensign George Williams at St. Gabriel Church on November 3.

...-V...-V...-V

Private Bennie Engler and Mrs. Engler were recent guests of Mrs. Gilmore. Their many friends on the Station enjoyed seeing them again. Mrs. Engler has entered Sould College in New Orleans and tells us that Mrs. J.E.Roberts has also entered Sould.

...-V...-V...-V

The Aerial observation post is located on top of the lever near the entrance gate. The champion honors so far, as a "spotter" of planes go to Mrs. P.I.Babin who spotted and reentered 31 during her 2 hour watch during the month.

...-V...-V...-V

GOLF NEWS

The "razzle-dazzle" golf tournament held on the personnel golf course on November 14 was quite a novelty.

There were two teams. Mrs. S.H.Butler was captain of one and Mrs. B.M. Prejean was captain of the other. The players on each team were numbered from 1 to 6 on each side. Only one ball was used by each team the players following each other consecutively. The team asking low score was declared the winners. Mrs. Butler's team won.

The tournament derives its name from the fact that all manner of "razzle-dazzle" was permitted during the play by the opponents--anything to distract the player, and detract from the score! After the game a wennie roast was enjoyed by participants and guests, the outdoor oven being utilized.

When you have finished reading this copy of THE STAR pass it on to a friend.